

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05

CU-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /071 W

----- 008889

O 222027Z APR 75 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9834

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1609

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MORG, HO

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO REMOVAL OF LOPEZ

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1584

1. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT SITUATION REMAINS CALM
WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO TROOP
MOVEMENTS. NO STATE OF ALERT HAS BEEN DECLARED.

2. IN DOWNTOWN TEGUCIGALPA ALL IS QUIET AND BUSINESS
CONTINUES AS USUAL. SOME BUSINESSMEN HAVE EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION IN MELGAR'S ASCENSION SINCE THEY REGARD HIM AS
MORE DECISIVE THAN LOPEZ.

3. EMBASSY SOURCES STATE THAT COL. POLICARPO PAZ, CHIEF
OF FUERZA PUBLICA DE SERGURIDAD (FORMERLY CES) WILL SUCCEED
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MELGAR AS CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES. PAS IS LIKELY TO BE SUCCEEDED

IN THE FSP BY THE CURRENT ARMED FORCES PAYMASTER, CO. JORGE SOLORZANO.

4. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS OF POSSIBLE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THE EMBASSY ON APRIL 22 OR SUBSEQUENT DAYS. WHEN MELGAR WAS RECENTLY ELEVATED TO COMMAND THE ARMED FORCES THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LOUDLY PROTESTED THIS "MOVE TO THE RIGHT." STUDENTS HAVE LATELY SUPPORTED THE THESIS THAT THE UB EPISODE IS REALLY A PLOT BY UB (AND POSSIBLY THE EMBASSY AND THE CIA) TO CAUSE A REACTION AGAINST LOPEZ WHICH WOULD LEAD THE COUNTRY TO THE RIGHT. IN STUDENT EYES, THE ASCENSION OF MELGAR TO BE CHIEF OF STATE WILL LIKELY CONFIRM THEIR THESIS.

5. RADIO REHDRTERS HAVE BROADCAST COMMENTS ON THE REMOVAL OF LOPEZ BY MANY PROMINENT HONDURAS. CARLOS ROBERTO REINA, LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT FACTION OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, SAID THAT THE CHANGE WAS CAUSED BY THE CONTROL OF THE GOH BY YOUNG LT. COLONELS AND BY THE BRIBERY SCANDAL. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT LOPEZ' DEPARTURE WOULD LEAD TO A RETURN OF CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

6. MINFIN ACOE
A BONILLA, MINECON BENNATON, MINLAB
FONSECA AND MINED ALCERRO HAVE ALL ANNOUNCED THEIR RESIGNATIONS. IT APPEARS CERTAIN TO EMBASSY THAT ALL OTHER UNANNOUNCED MINISTERS WILL ALSO RESIGN.

7. SEVERAL DAYS AGO INA (THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE) ANNOUNCED PLANS TO MOVE ITS OFFICES INTO THE NOW VACANT CONGRESS BUILDING. ANGRY PROTESTS WERE MADE BY SEVERAL GROUPS, INCLUDING THE POLITICAL PARTIES, WHO SAW IN THE MOVE AN INDICATION OF THE INTENTION OF THE MILITARY TO REMAIN IN POWER FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. AN ARMED FORCES RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT AT MIDDAY APRIL 22 RESCINDED THAT DECISION.

8. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION, FEUH, EXPRESSED HIS VIEW DURING A RADIO INTERVIEW THAT THE MELGAR GOVERNMENT WILL BE RESTRICTIVE
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AND THAT MELGAR WILL NOT HAVE PUBLIC SUPPORT. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A CLIMATE OF UNEASINESS PREVAILING AT THE UNIVERSITY. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE ARMY G-2 OF A MEETING TODAY BETWEEN STUDENT ASSOCIATION, (FEUH) LEADERSHIP AND AGENTS OF FSP DURING WHICH THE LATTER INFORMED THE STUDENTS THAT THIS WOULD BE A POOR DAY TO CARRY OUT THEIR SCHEDULED DOWNTOWN MEETING AND THAT APPROPRIATE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN IF MEETING GOT OUT OF HAND. IN VIEW OF CES

STAND, STUDENTS REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO UNIVERSITY AND DECIDED
TO RESCHEDULE TODAY'S DEMONSTRATION.

9. IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE STUDENT ACTION AGAINST EMBASSY
SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING HEIGHTENED.
SANCHEZ

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